

# MUNOFS VI Research Report

Forum:           Advisory Panel

Issue:               Measures to combat human trafficking in the Central African Republic.

Student Officer:     Ayush Shah

Position:            President

## Introduction and General Overview

---

It is arguable as to when human trafficking began, as it had not been defined until recently. However, the first major sign of it or something similar was in the 16<sup>th</sup> century during the Atlantic Slave Trade. This was a global event and it was recognized and acknowledged by all, but not necessarily as an act of violation of human rights, but as a means to increase the labour force. This made the Slave trade widely tolerable but the issue remained the same. Since then, the issue has only grown, not only in size, but also with even more abuse involved considering that at first, it was only for labour, but over time, it has increased to sexual abuse as well.

The first law to be made against trafficking was in 1807 by the British that made the aforementioned trade illegitimate. Over the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century, many conferences have been held and International Convention for the Suppression of White Slave Trade was formed, with only 13 countries signing it at first, but over time, the number more than tripled. Although, in the present day, many laws have been passed against this internationally recognized crime, it still remains at large.

## Key Terms Defined

---

**Human Trafficking:** the illegal trade of humans for the purposes of slavery, sexual exploitation, and to some extremes, the removal of their organs, all for commercial uses.

**Source:** the place of origin of the victim of human trafficking.

**Destination:** the place in which the victim is trafficked to.

**Transit:** the place at which a victim may stay in between of being trafficked from the source to the destination

## UN Perspective

---

The United Nations is very keen to solve this issue as it is a major violation of human rights, be it willing or unwilling. It is unethical and also against the law in all countries. These are all factors, which make the solution of this issue urgent and necessary. The United Nations has an organization (a UNO), which is the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, which includes human trafficking. This organization oversees the topic of human trafficking and migrant smuggling. It has had many actions taken in the past, which have most definitely helped but unfortunately, not solved the issue. (Please see the United Nations involvement section below)

## Major Parties Involved and Their Views

---

**Central African Republic** - This is the main country that is in question, and it acts as a source, a destination as well as a transit for human trafficking. The majority of people trafficked are children (under the age of 16), and the reasoning for trafficking is for forced labour, enlistment as child soldiers or sexual exploitation. The C.A.R. is currently ranked in Tier 3 when placed against the TVPA. This system places different countries into separate tier rankings, with Tier 1 being the best and Tier 3 being the worst. However, Tier 1 simply means that the country's government is complying with the *minimum* requirements of the TVPA. Central African Republic has fallen a Tier over the past few years, as can be seen in the official report. This is due to the government failing to put effort into eradicating this issue. However, it must be noted, that seeing as this nation is a developing one, the government may deem financial growth to be a greater priority compared to human rights violations, but they are certainly not excused from ignoring the issue.

The people that are trafficked either arrive from or depart to one of the neighbouring nations (Cameroon, Chad, Nigeria, and the Democratic Republic of Congo, among many others)

**Chad:** This member state also has severe problems with human trafficking, especially in children. However, its government efforts keep it at Tier 2 watch list, the borderline between Tier 2 and 3. As of 2011, there are reportedly no child soldiers that are enlisted within the national defence force of Chad. Therefore, one aspect of human (child) trafficking is prevented. Through similar practice, the government of Chad can exercise its force and reduce the severity of the problem.

**Cameroon:** Although this country has made a national plan, and a national committee based solely on human trafficking, it still remains in the Tier 2 watch list. This is because the nation falls short on the practical side, in which it fails to punish offenders and complicit officials. Cameroon acts as a transit for Europe-headed groups as well as those with a destination of Gabon. Again, the government simply needs to focus on the issue, as well as those that cause it.

**Nigeria:** It is different from the previous nations in that it has maintained a Tier 2 rating. However, the base of the problem remains the same: not enough effort on the government's part. Recently, the government of the USA publicly told Nigeria that it needs to step up its contribution to solving this issue, because it is just not doing enough. Nigeria acts mainly as a source, with Nigerians being trafficked to various places around the world. These destinations include Italy, Denmark and Spain, showing the length as to which these people are forced to go.

**Democratic Republic of Congo:** Being another Tier 3 country, it is clear that it didn't oblige with the minimum requirements from the TVPA. Unfortunately, the government of the Democratic Republic of Congo has shown little to no initiative in combating the issue at hand. It has neither attempted to prosecute nor punish offenders of the law, and turns a blind eye to those officials in the army that "recruit" children to join the force. The worst part is that the government has not provided any indication that it will work on improving the situation anytime in the near future.

\*It is not possible to tell the exact statistics of human trafficking, as most of it may not be seen/recorded

## Timeline of events

---

**1700's** – Atlantic Slave Trade begins the human trafficking issue. (Although it wasn't exactly an issue back then)

**1807** – First law is made against the issue of the slave trade/human trafficking, and is passed, by Britain.

**1820** – United States follows suit and also passes a law against the Slave Trade.

**1899-1902** – Two conferences were held and the issue to be discussed was the 'White Slave Trade'

**1910** – 13 countries signed the International Convention for the Suppression of White Slave Trade (the world's first combined effort against human trafficking)

**1921-1923** – After WWI, League of Nations holds a conference and makes a study regarding human trafficking and the White Slave Trade. Another study is also done about Asia and it is found that Asian males traffic females of the same ethnic backgrounds.

**1949** – The United Nations Convention of the Traffic in Persons and the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others was passed and it was the first document that was actually legally binding. However, only the sexual aspect of human trafficking was discussed and combated by this, and therefore needs to be updated for the child soldier and forced labour.

**2000** – The UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons was passed, making all forms of trafficking illegal. (117 countries have signed it as of 2009)

**2004** – The DPKO's policy paper is another document like the one made in 1949 except that it explains what the UN will do (what the troops will do) in detail, and it doesn't cover the governmental side of the earlier one.

## UN involvement, relevant resolutions, Treaties and Events

---

The UN has been involved, and has attempted many times, over the years, with it making the news a lot of times. However, it has not helped the region of Central African Republic as much as it should have. In 2000, a United Nations protocol called The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children was passed, as part of a convention against Transnational Organized Crime. This may have been against crime, but it has certainly helped in solving the issue of human trafficking as well. It not only defines exactly what human trafficking is, it also aims to aid the victims of trafficking, in ways such as housing, medical and psychological help (if needed). It also looks to punish those doing the crime of human trafficking as well as parents and guardians who sell children. Although so much has been done to try and stop the current issue, there is no way of preventing it all. It is shown to be an important issue as 117 countries have signed it (as of October 2009).

The protocol mentioned above is an important document in combating this issue (The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children), as is (Human Rights Council Eleventh Session Resolution 11/3. Trafficking in persons, especially women and children). There are other resolutions that have come up on this topic, but most focus of common ways to stop this issue.

Another such document is the DPKO's Policy Paper made in March 2004. This also defines human trafficking, in a very similar manner to the previous protocol. It also explains the approach that the DPKO is planning to use to combat this issue as well and how it will deal with it. It explains the goal,

its objectives (like a resolution) and its activities that need to be carried out. It goes into more detail about how Peacekeepers from the UN will be involved. Overall, it is a detailed document outlines what needs to be done as well as the resources needed.

The UNMIBH (United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina) has also established a force (S.T.O.P – the Special Trafficking Operations Program) that is a part of the local police and carries out raids on organizations under suspicion of carrying out human trafficking. Although this may only seem relevant to Bosnia and Herzegovina, it can and should be applied by the UN to other nations and regions to stop human trafficking by proving to be an effective measure against it for the time being. Seeing as it has been effective to a certain degree, a similar result can be seen if it is implemented in the region surrounding and including Central African Republic.

## Possible Solutions

---

- The first thing that must be done is to define the problem, so that it is specific to the issue.
- Building shelters and providing aid is also a great solution for those who have been victimized.
- Trafficking should be criminalized and the doers should be punished as they have violated the rights of others.
- The victimized should also receive legal assistance from state lawyers.
- Provide training for the law enforcement and immigration officials.
- To punish complicit officials as they are (indirectly) aiding the trafficking by enabling the traffickers a way into the country.